



Secretary of State Jason Kander
Election Review
August 2, 2013

Voter Registration– August 2010 Primary Election

Background

While conducting the August 2010 primary election, the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners (“the Board”) learned of several complaints pertaining to the election results for State Representative District 40. The Board’s investigation revealed that two individuals, John and Clara Moretina, did not reside within District 40 despite changing their registration address to that district in July 2010. A subsequent federal investigation resulted in John Moretina pleading guilty on May 13, 2013 to voter registration fraud, at which time the Secretary of State’s office opened an investigation into Mr. Moretina’s voting history, finding that his wife, Clara Moretina, was also registered in District 40 but lived outside of the district. The Secretary of State’s office issued a referral to the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney’s office to further investigate John and Clara Moretina, under state law. As a direct result of the Secretary of State office’s referral, the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney brought charges against both Moretinas, who pleaded guilty to class three election offenses. These pleas prevent John and Clara Moretina from registering to vote or voting in Missouri in the future.

Findings

The Secretary of State’s office found that, according to the Missouri Centralized Voter Registration (MCVR) system and the investigation by the Board, both John and Clara Moretina, appeared to have provided false address and residency information to the Board.

The MCVR system showed that both John and Clara Moretina voted in State Representative District 40 for the August 2010 primary election. The MCVR system also showed that the Moretinas were listed as “inactive voters” because, subsequent to

the August 2010 election, the Board sent residence confirmation notices to the Moretinas at their new Kansas City address, which were returned as undeliverable.

Missouri law, Section 115.135, RSMo, entitles a person to register to vote only in the jurisdiction within which he or she resides. John Moretina’s guilty plea in federal court confirmed that he was not a properly registered voter in the 40th District at the time of the August 2010 primary election.

Findings (continued)

The Secretary of State's investigation also showed that Clara Moretina appeared to violate state elections law by illegally registering to vote in District 40.

These investigations prompted the Secretary of State's office to refer the

matter to the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's office for further inquiry, ultimately resulting in John and Clara Morentina's guilty pleas. These pleas prevent both Moretinas from registering to vote or voting in Missouri in the future.